Gc
929.2
L16405r
1937049

M. L.

REYNOLDS HISTORICAL
GENEALOGY COLLECTION

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
3 1833 01332 9922

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2019

https://archive.org/details/williamlambd189200ream

16

THE LAMB FAMILY

A. A. Beams

1937049

William Lamb - Polk Co Pioneer,"
By A. A. Reams,
12/22/'36.

The Lamb family was one of the first families in Polk county, and they have a place in all the county records, among the first to enter land, and taking part in those pioneer events. They were a pioneer family in America. They lived for a short time in Kentucky, and they were a pioneer family in Indiana just at the breaking out of the War of 1812. They came to Iowa just after this area had been set off as the Territory of Iowa, and we make the statement that William Lamb was the first man here to become an agriculturalist.

James Lamb was the first one of the family in Amrrica, coming in 177[illegible]. The family in England, prior to this date, had met the disfavor of English officials and had located in Scotland. When James ~~Zzzzzzz~~ Lamb, then living in Scotland, came to America, he joined the colonies in thier effort for liberty, and served in the colonial army.

After the War he located in Kentucky and there married Hannah Boone, a cousin of Daniel Boone, the Kentucky pioneer. Mr. Lamb was not satisfied with conditions as he found them in Kentucky, especially as to slavery, and in 1811 he went to Indiana with his family.

The family in Polk county have the record that Mr. Lamb purchased some fourteen hundred acres of land in Wayne county, Indiana, for which he paid ~~xx~~ two dollars per acre. The family here also ~~x~~have a fine photograph of the large, two-story stone house which Mr. Lamb and his sons erected at what became Richmond, Indiana.

Indiana was a pioneer country at this date, and Mr. Lamb while living there was in the army under General Anthony Wayne in the cam-campaigns against the Indians. James Lamb died in Indiana at the age 85 years, and Mrs. Lamb died at the age of 70 years. The children of Mr, and Mrs. James Lamb were, James, Betsey, William, John,

38786

Catherine, Hannah, Joseph, and Jane.

William Lamb, of this family, came to Jefferson county, Iowa, in 1841, and to Polk county, early in the spring of 1843. The list of First Families in Polk county in 1846, given by Brigham, gives the number of the William Lamb family as twelve persons.

When Captain James Allen was at Fort Sanford, not far from Fairfield, Jefferson county, in the winter of 1842, preparing to establish the new military post at the junction of the Raccoon river with the Des Moines, he contracted with men to open up farms in this rich valley of the upper Des Moines river, to furnish grain crops for the garrison at the post, which was being planned there for three years, while the Indians still had possession of the land. William Lamb was one of the men who had a contract with army officials to open up such a farm, the garrison to use all grain and hay supplies furnished.

The spring of 1843 was a most interesting period to this area, and was the beginning of Polk county history. William Lamb came very early in the spring to begin his work as a farmer, and during the summer was one of the first farmers in this agricultural region. This same season came to this region John B. and Alexander Scott, they having contracts with army officials to open up farms, Captain Allen, knew of these large prairie lands here, and well knew that they could produce much of the supplies needed by the garrison.

It is well known to all historians that when Captain Allen came to this area, he secured a tract of one square mile, as a government reservation, on the west side of the river. The Scott men were given a farm of one section of land across the river, east from the post. The Indian Traders, the Ewing Brothers, were given as their claim, a half section of land, just north of the Scott claim. The Indian Bureau under the direction of Major John Beach, was given a half section of land for the location of his agency and buildings needed

this claim being east of the Scott claim. There was also provision made for the American Fur Company, the fur business being an important part in connection with the Indians here, who numbered some 2,500 people here. The fur company, in charge of Phelps Brothers, were given a claim of a half section of land, just south of the Indian Bureau claim, and east of the Scott claim.

These claims, above mentioned, were the bottom lands east of the river, and further east over the timber and brush land, of the present Capitol grounds, extending two miles. This brings us to the broad open prairie land east of Capital Hill, and this area received the tit Agency Prairie. It was on this prairie land that William Lamb was given his claim of a half section of land to open up a farm. This season came Alexander Turner, and he had a claim near the Lamb claim, and began his farming. This Lamb family of twelve persons opened up this farm in these beginning years of Polk county history. Mr, Lamb was a well known man here for several years, and then they removed to Lee county, Iowa.

Newton Lamb, who had come to Jefferson county, with his father in 1841, came with his father to Polk county, the first year, and was associated with him here, but he did not move his family here until 1845.

Newton Lamb was born in Indiana, in 1818, and grew to manhood on his father's farm there. In 1841 he married Caroline Evans, she born in Ohio in 1822, and that year they came to Iowa ~~with~~ with his father. Then in 1843, he joined his father in the beginning of Polk county life had his claim of a half section of land here, and in 1845 moved his family from Jefferson county, to Agency Prairie. Having been here he had his cabin ready to live in during the first winter. Peter Newcomer, married to Rosa Lamb, had come to Fort Des Moines with the troops in 1843 he being a mechanic, and had charge of building the post buildings that year. The post was completed the first year, and the summer of 1844

Captain Allen began the building of roads to connect Fort Des Moines with the east and south. Peter Newcomer built a bridge across Four Mile creek directly east of the post, on a road to lead to Iowa City. For the building of this bridge he was given a half claim on a half section of land. This claim he selected along the river, south of the post, and being a relaitve of the lamb men, by marriage, their claims were located together, the three claims bordering the river, from what is known as Newcomer's bend, near the Winterset bridge, as far down the river as the Electric Light plant. 1937049

By the unio of Fenton Lamb and Caroline Evans were born fourteen children, five of whom died in early life. Those living in Polk county being: Harriett married Austin Garrett; James married Rebecca Stockdale; Casper married Louisa Matthews; Henry married Brinkerhoff; Ira married Sadie Yeary; Minnie married John D. Finch; Florence married Wallace Maricle; Ora married

Rosanna married

The claim Mr. Lamb had he entered in 1849 from the government. The first home he had on this claim was a rude log cabin, and his second house here was also a log cabin. Later he had a well improved farm, and he noted that Agency Prairie was building up. He saw all the changes coming as rapidly as they did. The railroad tracks have crossed the farm, streets have been opened up and paved. This has become the factory district of Des Moines. For sometime he was in Lee township, then in Grant township, and he lived to see the City extend out and take in all of his farm.

Mr. Lamb engaged all his life in the cultivation of the soil, lackin to some extent the culture and literary taste of some people, but he opened up the way that others might follow. A man upright in all his dealings. He was a violinist, and at the time he brought his family to

Polk county in 1845, there were not many musical instruments in this area. We venture that his home was the center of entertainment with his violin, and that he went to neighbors to entertian them.

Mr. Lamb died in 1892, ~~and he died in~~

Peter Newcomer, a relative of the Lamb family by marriage, was born in Maryland in 1812, and like many young men south of Mason and Dixon's line, he came north. Mr. Newcomer first came to Wayne county, Indiana, and doubtless here he first met the Lmab family. Later he lived in Ohio, and in 1841 he came to Jefferson county, Iowa, and here in 1842 he married Rosanna Lamb, she being born in Wayne county, Indiana, in 1823, and came to Jefferson county with her parents in 1841. Mr. Newcomer came to Fort Des Moines with the first troops and in 1844 he staked his claim, and located it. When the government survey was made and he entered the claim it was section 18, township, 78, range 23, being at first in Grant township, nd since 1890 included in the City of Des Moines. He built his log cabin on the farm, which he improved very rapidly, this first cabin being a story and a half high, and in t is he lived until he built the fine residence so well known to many people who passed that way, the home being destroyed by fire.

By the union of Peter Newcomer and Rosanna Lamb were born two daughters, Anna and Cassie. Mr. and Mrs. Newcomer continued to live on the farm for many yers and then moved to Louisnana, he dying there in 1891, and Mrs. Newcomer died at Stockton, California in 1904.

Anna Newcomer was born on A enoy Prairie, Polk county, May 29, 1845. It is a matter of re ord that four babies were born in the Polk county area, that year, and hardly c n ony one of the claim to be the first white child born in the county. Let us cal, them the Polk county quartett born in 1845. Here they are:

A daughter born to Lieut. and Mrs. Grier at the military post. This child only lived a short time, and was buried at Fort Des Moines, and later removed to the eastern home of Col. Grier.

A son born to Mr, and Mrs. Josiah M. Thrift, they living at that time in the log cabin, which is now Union Park.

A son born to Mr, and Mrs. John B. Scott, they living at that time in their cabin on the east side of the river.

A daughter, Anna, born to Mr, and Mrs, Peter Newcomer, they living at that time in thier log cabin on section 18,

James Y. Mills and Anna Newcomer were married in Polk county, Iowa, August 19. 1862. Mr, Mills was born in Hancock county, Indiana in 1840. The family came to Iowa in 1849, and in 1859 located on a farm in Allen township, Polk county. He, a son of J. S. And Elizabeth Scott Mills. J. S. Mills was born in Kentucky in 1812, and Elizabeth Scott was born in Indiana in 1815. Mr. Mill's mother joined him in his home here and she died in Des Moines in 1878, at the age of 87 years. The children of Mr, and Mrs. J. S. Mills was one son and two daughters: the son, James Y. Mills married Anna Newcomer, the daughters Sarah, married Ranzel Carter, who improved a farm in Bloomfield township, and Mary, who married David Hargis, of a well known pioneer family of south Polk county.

James Y. Mills enlisted in Company D, 29th Iowa, shortly after his marriage, and served nearly three years. He was wounded at the battle of Resaca, Georgia, and discharged on account of disability. Returning home from the service he lived on his father's farm in Allen township, it being one of the well improved farms in that part of Allen township

Later Mr, and Mrs. Mills bought part of the Newcomer homestead, on s section 18, the borthplace of Mrs. Mills. Here they resided several

years, then locating in Des Moines at East 14th street and Court Avenu

The family of Mr, and Mrs. Milles, are, James married Ida Keeling; Cassie married Raymond Myers; Carrie married Francis Myers; Vinelle married William Parts; Eunice married Willis Wilkins. Ula ~~married~~ and Ida, ~~married~~

Mr, Mills died in 19 .

Mrs. Mills, Anna Newcomer, born in Polk county, in 1845 is now living with her daughter, Mrs. Willis Wilkins, at 1725 East 13th stre in her 91st xxx.year.

3239 1